

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (original) A method of layered encoding, comprising:

- (a) applying a base layer perceptual filter to a signal to yield a base layer filtered signal;
- (b) finding a base layer estimate for said signal by base layer error minimization with said base layer filtered signal; and
- (c) finding a first enhancement layer estimate for said signal by error minimization with a first enhancement layer perceptual filter applied to a error in said base layer after inverse filtering with said base layer perceptual filter,
- (d) for  $j = 2, \dots, N$ , finding a  $j$ th enhancement layer estimate for said signal by error minimization with a  $j$ th enhancement layer perceptual filter applied to an error in said  $(j-1)$ st enhancement layer after inverse filtering with said  $(j-1)$ st enhancement layer perceptual filter, wherein at least one of said  $j$ th enhancement layer perceptual filters is weaker than said base layer perceptual filter.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said estimates are synthesis filtered CELP excitations.

Claim 3 – 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (new) A layered encoding, comprising:

- (a) means for applying a base layer perceptual filter to a signal to yield a base layer filtered signal;
- (b) means for finding a base layer estimate for said signal by base layer error minimization with said base layer filtered signal; and
- (c) means for finding a first enhancement layer estimate for said signal by error minimization with a first enhancement layer perceptual filter applied to a

error in said base layer after inverse filtering with said base layer perceptual filter,

(d) for  $j = 2, \dots, N$ , means for finding a  $j$ th enhancement layer estimate for said signal by error minimization with a  $j$ th enhancement layer perceptual filter applied to an error in said  $(j-1)$ st enhancement layer after inverse filtering with said  $(j-1)$ st enhancement layer perceptual filter, wherein at least one of said  $j$ th enhancement layer perceptual filters is weaker than said base layer perceptual filter.

Claim 7 (new) The layered encoding of claim 6, wherein:

(a) said estimates are synthesis filtered CELP excitations.